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356 792-6773 FOLEY AND LAROVER

NO. 4162 P.

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09/424,951

Application No.: 09/424,951  
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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 14 and 15 as indicated below in the listing of claims. Please cancel claims 3, 13 and 17-19 without prejudice.

Listing of claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide that ~~encodes~~ codes for a protein ~~that is~~ linked to phenotypic switching in *Candida albicans* ~~and that exhibits 70% or greater overall sequence identity to SEQ ID No. 3 hybridizes, under stringent conditions, to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 1, wherein said protein displays kinase activity.~~

~~2.~~ (Previously presented) A polynucleotide according to claim 1, comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 3.

3. (Cancelled).

~~4.~~ (Previously presented) A method of screening for a compound with the ability to inhibit expression or functionality of the CaNIK1 protein comprising:

(A) contacting a yeast cell that exhibits phenotypic switching with a test substance, wherein said yeast cell comprises:

- (i) a polynucleotide according to claim 1 and
- (ii) a promoter operably linked to said polynucleotide, such that said yeast cell produces a protein encoded by said polynucleotide; then

(B) monitoring the ability of said test substance to inhibit expression or functionality of said protein encoded by said polynucleotide in said yeast cell.

~~5.~~ (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~4~~ <sup>5</sup>, wherein step (B) comprises monitoring the level of said protein produced in said cell.

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~~8~~<sup>5</sup> 8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~4~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein step (B) comprises monitoring the level of mRNA encoded by said polynucleotide and produced by said cell.

~~10~~<sup>5</sup> 10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~4~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein step (B) comprises monitoring the level of kinase activity within said yeast cell, wherein said kinase activity typifies said protein.

~~12~~<sup>5</sup> 12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~4~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein a promoter is operably linked to a reporter gene and wherein step (B) comprises monitoring the level of transcription of said reporter gene within said yeast cell.

~~7~~<sup>4</sup> 9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~5~~<sup>4</sup>, wherein step (B) comprises effecting a two-dimensional gel electrophoresis.

~~9~~<sup>8</sup> 10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~8~~<sup>8</sup>, wherein step (B) comprises effecting a Northern blot, a primer extension, or a ribonuclease protection assay.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~7~~<sup>10</sup>, wherein step (B) comprises:
- (A) labeling ATP with <sup>32</sup>P in vitro;
  - (B) running cellular proteins on a polyacrylamide gel; and
  - (C) determining the amount of <sup>32</sup>P labeled protein using autoradiography.

~~13~~<sup>12</sup> 12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~8~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein said reporter gene is a luciferase gene and luciferase activity is monitored using a luminometer.

13. (Cancelled).

~~2~~<sup>14</sup> 14. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim ~~1~~<sup>13</sup> that exhibits 80% or greater identity to SEQ ID NO 3.

~~3~~<sup>15</sup> 15. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim ~~1~~<sup>13</sup> that exhibits 90% or greater identity to SEQ ID NO 3.

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~~14~~ 16. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of  
SEQ ID. NO 4.

17.-19. (Cancelled).

~~15~~ 20. (Previously presented) A culture of a bacterial strain containing the lambda phage  
λSG15.1.